

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03 SCA-01 EUR-12 /090 W

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O 062106Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9959

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 615

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, HO

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 097854, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 1708, (C) STATE 103086

1. THE EMBASSY PRESENTED AN ORAL DEMARCHE ON MAY 6 TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEE QUESTION. THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL WAS CAUTIOUSLY RECEPTIVE TO HONDURAS ADMITTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND, WHILE OBSERVING THAT HONDURAS STILL HAS ITS OWN REFUGEES AS A RESULT OF THE 1974 HURRICANE, SAID HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ONLY FAIR FOR HONDURAS TO ACCEPT A SYMBOLIC NUMBER (APPROXIMATELY 25) VIETNAMESE. HE ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS THE GOH WOULD HAVE TO ANY REFUGEES EVENTUALLY COMING TO HONDURAS. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOW THE SLECTION PROCESS WILL OPERATE, AND NOTED THE GOH WOULD PREFER PROFESSIONALS AND

TECHNICIANS TO UNSKILLED REFUGEES. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE USG EXPECTS MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS TO BE MADE BY ICEM AND UNHCR AND THAT, AS
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FUNDING BECOMES AVAILABLE, USG EXPECTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO

THOSE AGENCIES FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN ADDITION, THE OFFICIAL WAS TOLD THAT THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WOULD COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH GOH TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH REPECT TO NUMBERS, RETRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND SETTLEMENT IF A DECISION IS MADE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES.

2. THE OFFICIAL SAID THE GOH WOULD ALSO HAVE TO CONSIDER THE POLITICAL REACTION TO ACCEPTING REFUGEES, SPECIFICALLY THE LEFTIST REACTION. HE SPECULATED ABOUT WHETHER THE GOH WOULD WANT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OVER THE MATTER SHOULD THERE BE AN ADVERSE REACTION TO ALLOWING VIETNAMESE TO SETTLE IN HONDURAS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXPULSION OF CHILEAN REFUGEES FROM HONDURAS IN LATE 1974 MIGHT BE EXPLOITED BY THE LEFTISTS, IF VIETNAMESE ARE ADMITTED BY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HEADED BY THE MAN (COLONEL MELGAR) WHO WAS PUBLICLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPELLING THE CHILEANS.

3. THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEFORE A DEFINITE POSITION IS ADOPTED. THE GOH WILL NEED SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING GOH OBLIGATIONS TO REFUGEES AND SELECTION PROCESS BEFORE THAT FINAL DECISION CAN BE MADE. PLEASE SEND FURTHER DETAILS ON THESE TWO POINTS TO EMBASSY ASAP.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DEMARCHE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI01817
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750159-0175
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750575/aaaacrjh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 097854, 75 TEGUCIGALPA 1708, 75 STATE 103086
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
TAGS: AEMR, SREF, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006